Reduction of excise duty on the Small Scale Garment Sector

4382. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Textiles is pleading for the reduction in 16 per cent excise duty proposed to be imposed in the current Budget on the Small Scale Garment Sector;

(b) whether the Ministry of Textiles has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance; and

(c) whether large scale textile imports pegged at Rs. 4000 crore this year mainly from Taiwan, will pose a threat to domestic garment industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) While some segments have welcomed the imposition of CENVAT on garments, certain manufacturers specially the exporters have opposed imposition of duty on branded garments. Ministry of Finance is seized of the issue and would take an appropriate decision on merit.

(c) The textiles imports from Taiwan constitutes 7.7% of total textile imports during the period (April-September, 2000). There are various safeguard measures available to protect the interest of domestic industry from unfair competition from imports and Government may resort to such measures, if situation so warrants.

Development activities undertaken by the NHDC in Andhra Pradesh

4383. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what development activities were undertaken by the National Handloom Development Corporation in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years, year-wise details of such activities;

(b) whether there is any action plan for the corporation for States for remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?